

A SECOND

LETTER

TO A

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

Recommending the

IMPROVEMENT

OF THE

IRISH-FISHERY. *h*



DUBLIN:

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Capel-street, MDCCXXIX.



their Power for the Public Good, it may encourage all projecting Brains to offer their Observations to Consideration; and therefore I have here laid before you pritty largely, one Point which I did but touch briefly in my first Letter, and that is, concerning the present State of the *Irish* Fishery, and the great Need that we have at this Time to turn our Minds towards the Improvement of it.

THAT I might set this in a truer Light before you, I have pried into every Corner that I could think of, but have been surprized to find how little I cou'd meet with, about so curious and also so important a Subject as the Fishery will be found to be when duely considered.

Captain Lawrence in his Preface to, *The Interest of Ireland in its Trade and Wealth stated*, tells us, that the 4th Instruction for the Council of Trade given by the Duke of Ormond in the Year 1664 was this,

YOU are to consider by what Means the Fishing Trade may be most improved in the said Kingdom of Ireland—But I do not find, that he touched upon that Point again in any Part of his Book,

AND I do not much wonder that he said so little at that Time, and that others in that Age were as silent as he: For in 1664, when the Old Improve-

Improvements had been destroyed in the Time of the Massacre in 41, and those who cou'd escape had been forced to flie for their Lives, and but few in Comparifon were returned back, they had so much other Work to do at Land, that they had little Time for turning their Labours to the Sea.

AND besides, They did not want it. They had more Provision than they could either spend or sell. Altho' their Land was but half tilled, and their Bogs undrained, yet they had such Plenty of black Cattle, that it was really a great Hardship upon them when their Cattle were prohibited to be sold in *England* at very low Prices. Now what Occasion had they to go to Sea for Fish, when they could not spend their own Flesh? It is Necessity and Fulness of People, and high Prices that makes Fishermen be at the Charge of Nets and Boats, and venture their Lives besides with the Winds and Weather upon the angry Element of the Sea; and since they had neither Hands to spare, nor Want of Provision, nor Money to give brisk Prices for Fish when it was caught, what wonder that we hear so little of it or of any Books about it at that Time.

THE Merchants indeed might have set up Fisheries for Exportation; and one Branch, the *Salmon-Fishery* of the *Bann* was undertaken; but it was by *Londoners* who had Stock, and were
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in a way of trading in foreign Markets; but for home Consumption there was no Need of it, and therefore it is no Wonder that we hear so little at that Time about it.

BUT the Tide now does more than begin to turn, especially in some Parts. In *Dublin, Ulster*, and I suppose in all the Well-peopled parts of the Nation, Prices grow high, Provisions dear, and the Poor can hardly live upon the best Wages that the Trader can afford to give them for their Labour. Great Quantities of Corn are brought hither from abroad, and great Numbers of People leave the Land every Year and seek for new Habitations in Foreign Parts: Upon this Foot it is high Time to consider, that the Sea is part of the Dominion of all Neighbouring Lands, and that when God created the Waters, and caused them to bring forth abundantly, and gave their Produce into Man's Hand for the Support of his Life, he gave him a Gift that was well worth his Acceptance and Improvement; and that now at least it begins to be Time for us to consider, whether we cannot find in that a fit Supply of our Wants, and Employment for the Hands of our Industrious People.

Now in considering this Case, the most solid and practical Notions are most likely to be found in the Acts of Parliament that have been made

made about this Point, and there are fifteen that I have met with of this Sort, that have been made either in *England* or *Ireland*; and yet, if I guess right, we still want either to have new ones made, or the old ones better known than they have been, or better applied to our own Case.

IF for Method's sake we consider those Laws according to the Times in which the Course of Things made them needful, we shall find a natural Order that perhaps will fall in pretty nearly with the Occasions and Necessities both of our own, and all other Nations.

IN the Times of the *Danes* and *Saxons*, when a great part of *England* was Waste and Bog with few People, they had no more need to look to the Sea for Food than we have had till now: And therefore I find not one Law about the Fish and Fishery in those Ages.

ABOUT the Time of *Edward* the 3^d*, when People were increased, and Provisions grew dear, as they do now with us in a very terrible and threatening manner, they made a Law that *Viſtuals* should be sold at reasonable Prices, and Magistrates in Towns and Markets should have Power to inquire and fix the Rates of Things.

* See the Act the 23^d Year of his Reign, Chapter the 6th.

BUT as such restraining Laws upon Property and Markets that should be free, are usually found to do more harm than good, two Years after they made a contrary Law to encourage all Merchant-Strangers to bring in all kind of Provision; and as it was fit they should, they should be Judges themselves of the Prices of their own Goods, and Magistrates or other Officers should not meddle in the Sale, more than Necessity and stated Rules allowed.

As Fish at that Time began to be found a great Increase of Food to the People, and cost us nothing but the Charge of catching. The next Laws were made to encourage Fishermen by giving them as well as *Strangers* a right to set their own Prices upon their Goods, and to sell them at any Time between *Sun-rising*, and *Sun-setting*. And when the Fishers in the very next Parliament the 35th of *Edward* the 3d, complained that they were restrained from selling their Fish after *Sun-setting*, because it was sometimes Night before they could bring their Fish to Land, that Limitation was with great reason taken off, and they were allowed to sell when they would, either by Day or Night.

BUT whereas the People then were grown into such want of it, that the Buyers would meet the Fishermen at Sea, and buy them there, that was prohibited, and it was required that they

they should not sell their *Fish* till the Cable was drawn to Land.

AND whereas other Difficulties might arise that could not well be provided for by particular Statutes; In the 3^d Chapter of that Session it was enacted, that the Lord *Chancellor* and *Treasurer*, and some of the King's Council might ordain Remedy touching the buying and selling of Fish and Wines, &c.

ANOTHER Discouragement that Fishermen at first met with, was a Privilege that the Lords of the Admiralty and the Officers under them claimed of exacting Money or Shares of Fish for Licence for going to Sea and fish in *Ireland* and *Newfoundland*, and other Places within their Jurisdiction; and that the Fishermen might be encouraged, and the greater Plenty of Fish might come into the Realm, it was enacted in the 2^d Year of *Edward* the 6th, Chap. the 6th, That neither the *Admiral*, nor any Officer under him, shall in any Time hereafter exact any Sums, Doles, or Shares, for any Licence to pass this Realm to any of the said Voyages under the Penalty of treble the Sum taken, and the Party that exacted it should lose his Office, and make Fine and Ransome at the King's Will.

THE next Point which made a Difficulty upon the Fishermen then and is disputed now,
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and hath given Oceaſion to this preſent Inquiry, is the Privilege of Sea-Port Towns, and Burroughs that are near the Sea, claiming a Right of keeping Prices low, and ſtopping Kidders from going to other Markets till their own Towns were ſerved. For as if the Sea was theirs, and Fiſh were caught only for thoſe that lived next it, and not for all the King's Subjects that wanted and could buy it, ſuch Perſons had claimed and exerciſed ſuch Rights. But it was found ſo great a Grievance, that a Law was made in the 2d Year of King Richard the 2d, Chap. the 1ſt, the Preamble of which recites;

‘ That in that Parliament great Complaint had
 ‘ been made for that in many Cities, Burroughs,
 ‘ and Ports of the Sea, great Damages, and outrageous Grievances had cauſed a great and exceſſive Dearth, above what would have been if
 ‘ the Merchant Strangers and others which bring
 ‘ ſuch Goods into the Realm, might freely ſell
 ‘ their Goods to whom they wou’d; Therefore
 ‘ they give Power to all Strangers and any of the
 ‘ King's Subjects to bring in Corn, Fleſh, Fiſh,
 ‘ and all Manner of Victuals and Suſtenance.—

But Aliens ſhould ſell in Groſs only, and not by Retail under the Penalty of paying dubble. But in the very firſt Year of the next King, Henry the IVth, this Reſtraint upon Strangers was taken off, and they were allowed to retail Fiſh as well as others.

IN the 5th of *Queen Elizabeth*, Chapter the 5th, there is an Act, the first Part of which is called, *Constitutions for the Maintenance of the Navy*; and the latter Part is said to be, for the *Increase of Provision of Fish*. It gives Liberty to all the Queen's Subjects to transport and carry any Sea-Fish from one Port to another, even out of the Queen's Dominions: And farther saith, 'it shall not be lawful to any Person or Persons in any Porte, City, Town, Market, or other Places within this Realm to set Price or make any Restraint or take or demand any Toll of any Sea-Fish taken by the Queen's Subjects. But the Town of *Hull* is excepted from this.

THE Act proceeds, 'that whereas some Clauses concerning *Regrators* and *Forestallers* of Markets in an Act in the 5th and 6th of *Edward* the VIth, might bear hard upon the Buyers and Sellers of fresh Fish, it repeals so much of that Law as might hinder or hurt them,

FOR the farther Encouragement of the Fishers, it exempts Fish from the Power of the King's Purveyors.

IT exempts the Persons of Fishermen from being pressed for the Land-Service: And it gives Power of taking Apprentices to every Householder that used the Sea.

AND that Fishermen might be farther encouraged in their Work by being as sure as the Government cou'd make them of a regular and constant Market for their Fish when they had caught it, The same Statute of the 5th of *Queen Elizabeth* added *Wednesday* to the two Fish-Days which the Canons of the Church had appointed before on *Friday* and *Saturday*: And it required farther, That if any Person by reason of Sicknes should obtain Licence for eating Flesh upon any of those Days, Yet they should not spend the less Fish, but that for every Dish of Flesh, that they shou'd have upon their Table, they should have the same Number of Fish either salt or fresh.

THIS added to the Observation of *Lent* in the Spring, made a great Consumption of Salt Fish, and was thought to be a very wise Law.

IT helpt the poor Fishermen by securing them a good Market. It made the yearly Stock of Food last longer, by making the Fish eke out the Flesh. As *March*, *April*, and *May*, are the barren Space between the old Year's Stores, and the new Year's Growth, and therefore are the Time when the Poor and unprovided also are in Danger of Starving, these Laws make even the Rich do something towards the preventing that Evil by spreading their Tables with *Old Ling* and *Herring*,

Herring, instead of living altogether upon young Calves and Lambs, which if too much indulged in the Spring, would hinder even the Year following from bringing with it its usual Plenty of Beef and Mutton, that are the chief Support of all Tables.

THESE preceding Laws have taken Care of the King's Navy, and prevented the Sea-port Towns and even the Admiralty from Obstructing the Fishermen, but they extended not their Care to the *Fish* themselves, but rather supposed the *Sea* to be such an inexhaustible Fund, that without their Help it wou'd supply both home and foreign Markets for ever; but by that Time these encouraging Laws had been executed some Years, they found by Experience, that the Fish wanted their Eyes as well as the Fishermen; and in the 1st of Queen *Elizabeth*, Chap. 17. there is an useful Law for preserving the *Spawn* and *Fry* of Fish, and its Preamble not only teaches the great Need of it, but shews us the unnatural Heedlessness of the Generality of Men if not directed and guided by the Legislature.

'THE *Spawn* (saith that Law) and *Fry* and *Young Breed* of *Eeles*, *Salmons*, *Pikes*, &c. had been so destroyed (lamentable and horrible to be reported) that even *Swine* and *Dogs* had been fed with the *Fry* and *Spawn* of Fish, to the great Hinderance and *Decay* of the Commonwealth;

wealth; and therefore it enacts, ' that no Pike
 ' shou'd be killed that was less than *ten Inches*
 ' long, No *Salmon* under *Sixteen*, No *Trout* un-
 ' der eight, nor *Barbel* under twelve Inches.

IT farther enacts, that the Mesh of every Net
 should be two Inches and a half broad, and the Nets
 for Smelts, Loches, Minneis, Bulheads, Gudge-
 ons, or Eeles might be as they had been usually,

IN the 3d of King *James* the 1st, the Pream-
 ble takes Notice that the Brood of Sea-Fish is
 Spawned and lies in still Water where it may
 have Rest to receive Nourishment and to grow
 to Perfection, and that it is destroyed by *Wears*,
Draw-Nets, and Nets with Canvas in Harbours,
 Havens and Creeks, and that it was at that Time
 much kept down to the great Damage and Hurt of
 the Fishermen and Hinderance of the Common-
 Wealth, for that every Wear near the main Sea
 raketh in twelve Hours, sometimes the Quantity
 of five, sometimes of ten, sometimes of twenty,
 and sometimes of thirty Bushels of the Brood of
 Sea-Fish; Therefore it enacted, that if any Per-
 son set up any new Wear within five Miles of
 the Sea, or should destroy Spawn or Fry contrary
 to Law, he should forfeit Ten Pound.

WHEREAS the last Law requiring the Meshes
 of Nets to be two Inches and a half. was found
 to take Fish too small, this Law enacted, that the
 Mesh

Mash should be three Inches wide, and an Inch and half from Knot to Knot. Herrings, Pilchards, Sprats, or Lavidinian were excepted from the Clause about the large Mash.

CONSTABLES and Church-Wardens by Warrant from a Justice of Peace, should have Power of executing this Law, And every Justice of Peace should have Power of appointing a *Subcon-servator* who should have half the Fine that was imposed upon any Offender.

For this last, See *Richard* the IId, *Anno* 17.
Chap. 9.

As the first mentioned Laws take Care of the Fishermen, these last preserve the Fish both Spawn and Fry; and other Laws limit the Times and Seasons of Fishing, and forbid those Seasons that are improper.

WHETHER ever any Legislature made its Care and Protection reach so far as to give any Encouragement or Premiums to those that destroyed the Natural Enemies and Devourers of the Fish, I know not.

THEY do it to those that destroy *Wolves* and *Foxes* and *Vermin* that waste Warrens and Forests and Cornfields, and the useful Kinds of Fish are as timerous and weak, and their Destroyers are very numerous.

THERE

T H E R E are *Sharks, Sea-Dogs, Sword-Fish, Saw-Fish*, Otters by Water; *Cormorants, Ospreys, Herons, Bitterns, Sea-Cobs*, or *Sea-Gulls* that build upon the Rocks, by Land.

T H E Y are but Carrion themselves, but yet live upon the Fry and Spawn of Fish and fright them from their resting Places to that Degree, that, for ought I know, they may be one Reason that makes some Seas have so few Fish that they are thought to be less productive of them than others; But whether ever any Nation made it Part of their Care to keep down the great Numbers that there are of them, excepting of *Herons* here in *Ireland*, I am not able to say; but for other Sort of defensive Laws there are all those that I have reckoned up, and I do not know but that most of them are of Force and binding here as well as in *England*.

M A N Y of them are very antient, and were received here with the rest of the *English* Laws that were accepted in gross in *Henry* the VIIth's Time, and as most of them were made for the Maintenance of the Navy, by keeping up Nurseries for Sea-Men, and for the Increase of Provision for the Support of the Common-Wealth, I doubt not but they are binding not only in *Ireland* which is named in some of them, but in all the King's Dominions, even as far as the Jurisdiction

jurisdiction of the Admiralty extends, which is thro' all the *Brittish* Islands and Navigable Rivers as far as the Tides reach: And as all Privy-Counsellors and Justices of the Peace, and even Constables and Church-Wardens, with a Justice's Wardens are Conservators of Fish and Fishermen, I wou'd be glad if I cou'd say any Thing that wou'd turn the Eyes of all public-spirited Men this Way, and rouse up a Spirit toward the Care of this Kind of Improvement.

THAT the *Irish* Seas are as full of Fish as the *Brittish*, I believe there is no Doubt to be made. Not only the Mildness of the Air and Richness of the Soil in some Places, but the Cloudiness of the Skie is of Service in this Respect, because it serves them for an Umbrella that makes them less subject to Frights, and more at Rest, because less visible.

UPON the Account of these and such like Reasons, the learned *Cambden* in his *Corographical Description of Ireland*, gives this Testimony of the great Plenty of Fish in *Lough Ern*. '*Lacus Erno adeo piscosus ut Piscatores nimiam frequentius Piscium Copiam Retiumq; rupturas potius quam defectus Conquerantur: That Lough Ern was so well stored with Fish, that the Fishermen complained of too many rather than too few, and were in Danger of breaking their Nets by their great Number, rather than of*

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' wanting a good Draught: and altho' want of Care of the Spawn and Fry, and unlawful Nets and unseasonable and too frequent fishing, have now made both that and other Places far from answering *Cambden's* Character of *Lough Erne* yet the learned present Bishop of *London* in his last Edition of *Cambden*, saith, that *Lough* is well stored with Fish.

AND that the Open Seas have as much Plenty as the *Loughs*, we can make as little Question Numerous Rivers empty themselves into its Channels, and by the Communication they have with the *Loughs*, the Sea-Fish have great Convenience of retiring and lodging their Spawn in the calm Waters. Both those Lakes which are numerous and the Seas near them, are in the right Latitude between the Whale-Fisheries under the Northern Ice, and the Sharks, Sword-Fish and Crocodile that are bred in the hot Waters near the Equator, and therefore even the old native *Irish* themselves, though they were not so wise as to set up Fisheries upon their own Coasts, yet imposed and received from Foreigners a considerable Tribute of Money and great Support of Provision of Fish, for suffering them to cast their Nets in their Seas, and cure their Fish in their Harbours.

IF any question whether the Natives were so provident as to make this Advantage, they may con-

consult the 6th Statute that was made here in *Ireland* in the 5th Year of *Edward* the IVth, in which the *Irish* Parliament prohibited Foreigners from this Trade with the Natives, and imposed a Tribute to be paid into the King's Custom-House.

IN short, Mr. *Chambers* in his late excellent Dictionary, saith, the useful Fish thrive best in the temperate cool Airs, and therefore the East-Side of *Scotland*, and Northern Coasts of *England*, supply both *English*, *Dutch*, *Danes*, *Swedes*, *Hamburgers*, and *Bremen* with such Stores of Herring and Cod as are a great Support of their Government, and People, and he saith that the West Side of *Scotland* is the very Place where the Fishing Trade may be carried to the highest Perfection: Now the West Side of *Scotland* is the Northern Part of *Ireland*, and yet even there we are so far from exporting Fish for the Supply of others, that it is from the Parts adjoining to that that the Protestant Part of our People are flying to *America* for food, and those who stay are in very great Danger of perishing for Want of Bread.

IN reciting the *English* Laws which had been made for Encouragement of the Fishing-Trade, I passed over one that was enacted in Favour of the Pilchard-Fishery in the first Year of King *James* the first, Chapter 23d. That chiefly respects

pects *Somersetshire, Devonshire and Cornwall*: And whereas there was a Sort of Men called *Directors, Huors, Balkers, and Conders*, that from the Tops of the Hills used to give Notice to the Fishermen of the *Time* when the Herrings and Pilchards came near, and of the *Places* where they shou'd cast their Nets; And whereas the Owners of the Land from whence they took their Views, had brought Actions of Trespas against them for damaging their Crops, the Law indemnified such useful Men from all Prosecutions upon that Account: and whereas the Managers of that Fishery were incorporated into a Body for the better carrying on so chargeable but useful a Work, the Statute enacted, that no particular Persons should sell Pilchards or Fumathoes, but with the Leave and Consent of the Owner or Major Part of that Company.

As there were many Pilchards found on the South Part of *Ireland*; In the 10th of King *Charles* the 1st, in the Time of the Earl of *Stratford*, that Law of King *James* the 1st was enacted here in *Ireland*, and was carried on with good Success. I suppose it must be upon the Account of that, That the most Reverend and Learned the present Archbishop of *Dublin*, was able to say in his Essay upon the Fisheries of *Ireland* lately printed with the Natural History of it, Page 190, That the Fisheries of *Ireland* had been heretofore much more considerable than it is at present.

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BUT when the Massacre in *Ireland*, and the Rebellion in *England* broke out, and fell heaviest upon those who had projected and supported that Fishery, it must fall to the Ground immediately, and I doubt it hath not been revived since. The Learned Archbishop before mentioned intimates, that it was thought, that the Noise of the Guns in the Sea-fight at *Bantry-Bay* between Sir *George Rook* and the *French*, frightened the Pilchards from that Coast, but I offer it to Consideration, whether the Cause that I have assigned, might not be also a preceding Reason.

THESE Things considered, it would be well and wise for us, if all public-spirited Men turned their Thoughts this Way, and as the Duke of *Ormond* in 1664, recommended this to the Commissioners of Trade for their Consideration, what could be more seasonable than to try what can be done in it at this Time, when the uncommon Scarcity and Dearthness of Corn does very sensibly affect both Rich and Poor.

THE Obstructions that hinder it now are the same that lay in its Way when it was undertaken first in *England*.

SEA-PORT Towns and Burroughs near the Sea, claim Privileges that are injurious to the whole Common-Wealth; Let it be considered whether

whether the Act in the 2d of *Richard* the II^d, Chapter the 1st, doth not give free Power, not only to the King's Subjects, but also even to Foreign Merchants to import both Fish and all other Food into such Towns and by them to all other Markets, where they will; *For it gives them*
full Power of doing it; Notwithstanding any
Statutes, Ordinances, Charters, Judgments, Al-
lowances, Customs and Usages made or suffered
to the Contrary; which Charters and Franchi-
ses, if any there be, shall be utterly repealed and
annulled as a Thing made, used, and granted
against the Common Profit to the Oppression of
the People.

AGAIN, It is said, that Gentlemen who have Lands upon the Sea-Coasts, make the Fishermen buy their Liberty, by paying an arbitrary Sum for every Boat that goes out. It may be considered whether that is not contrary to this last cited Law, and contrary to the Statute made in the 2d Year of *Edward* the VIth, Chapter the 6th, which forbad such Exactions even by the Lords of the Admiralty, or any of the Governors of the Cinque-Ports.

AGAIN. The Kidders and Carriers of Fish are stopt in the Roads as if they were Regrators and Persons to be discouraged; It may be considered, whether such Practice be not contrary to the necessary Haste of that kind of Business, and
 contrary

contrary to the Rights of all Markets, and also
 contrary to the 5th of *Queen Elizabeth*, Chap-
 ter the 5th, which exempts Fishermen and the
 Buyers and Sellers of fresh Fish from the Law
 against Regrators made in the 5th Year of *Ed-
 ward* the VIth, Chapter the 14th.

AGAIN, As the 1st of *Queen Elizabeth* saith,
Swine and *Dogs* had been fed with Spawn: and
 as the 3d of *King James* saith, the Fry of Fish
 had been consumed before fit for using, the *Arch-
 bishop of Dublin* in that Essay concerning the Fi-
 sheries of *Ireland* before mentioned, saith *Eeles*
 are taken in Sieves as they come out of the Sea,
 no bigger than Straws, and are pressed together
 in Cakes and so boiled and eaten. I have heard
 others say as much; but one wou'd think such a
 Practice shou'd not be suffered in any Nation that
 takes Care of its People.

AGAIN, As in *England* the Projects for the
 Fishery had not their due Force, till appointed
 Fish-Days increased and regulated the Consump-
 tion; Every good Man here shou'd be a Law to
 himself in a reasonable Degree, and every Meal
 of that Sort that he makes, he may reckon to be
 an Act of Virtue. *Queen Elizabeth* when she
 once wanted to eat Flesh, took a Licence for it
 from the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and if it be
 thought she did it for Example, that shou'd have
 so much the greater Effect upon our Practice.

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IN short all the great Officers of the Crown, Privy-Councillors, Chief Magistrates of Towns, Justices of Peace, and even Constables, Church-Wardens and Over-Seers of the Poor, should think themselves Conservators of the Meat of the People; and as Learned Men in our Age, have been so wise as to turn their Studies from vain Speculations to the useful Knowledge of Nature; and as the Creatures of the Sea exceed the Beasts of the Earth in Magnitude, Number and Variety, their Natures, Figures, Instincts, Sagacities, Manner of Life, Change of Places, and hidden Treasure afford much curious Matter for Observation, and they shou'd take Pleasure in Collecting and laying together the Knowledge of all that have been exercised in those Works and Trades, that they may do the same Offices to the Fishermen of our Nation, that the *Watchers*, *Huors*, and *Directors* in the Pilchard Fishery do from the Mountains to those that are casting their Nets upon the Wasers below them.

THE most Reverend and Learned Archbishop of *Dublin* hath led the Way, and set us an useful Example in that Essay that I have mentioned twice already, in *the Natural History of Ireland* put out by the learned Dr. *Molineux*; And as I would not leave out any Thing that comes to us with the Weight and Authority of his judgment, I will take Leave to add, That besides the two
Remarks

Remarks that I have already cited, about the
 shameful Waste of the Fry of Eeles and other
 Fish, and the great Effect which the Noise and
 Concussion of the Air in the Sea-fight at *Ban-*
try-Bay in 1689, had in driving away the Pil-
 lards from those Seas, He takes Notice how
 even the Firing some Guns for Pleasure in *Dub-*
lin-Bay spoil'd the Fishery for that Season. I sup-
 pose it was for this Reason that one Act of Par-
 liament forbids any Fishermen to cast an Anchor
 in the Place of Fishing in the Time while the
 Fishing lasted.

HE takes Notice farther how too frequent and
 constant Fishing in any Place destroys the Mo-
 ther-Fish, and brings the Remainder to too small
 Size, and therefore suggests, that annual Inter-
 vals and Rest from Fishing are as necessary for
 the Sea, as Intermiſſions are for the Land : But
 the Wants of the Markets and Employment of
 the Fishermen will not bear such long Times of
 Respite, the more Care must be taken of the
 Largeness of the Mash, and the Size of the Fish
 which may be taken; and the *Fence-Months* or
 Months of Defence when they are out of Sea-
 son, must be the more carefully preserved. *The*
Fence-Months for *Salmons* by the 1st of *Edward*
the 1st, the 13th of *Richard the 1st*, and the 17th
 of the same Prince, Chapter the 9th, is from the
 middle of *April* till *St. Martin's Day*, the 4th of
July, but in *Lanchashire*, where the Reason al-
 ters,

ters, The taking of them is prohibited from *Michaelmas* only till *Candlemas*, for by that Time the Act saith, they come into Season in those Parts

THE same Learned Archbishop suggests to us that one Reason of the Difference of the Times proper for taking of them, may be the Length of the Way whither the *Salmon* travel to lay their Spawn. In the *Bann* they go thirty or forty Miles, and being wearied and weakned with their long journey, they spawn but once in the Year but at *Ramelton* on the Bay of *Swilly* they spawn twice in a Year, and being but little weakened the Sea being near, they are never much out of Season.

SIR *Robert Redding* is another who hath set us a good Example in this Case. He doth inform us with respect to the Pearl-Fishery which is found in four Rivers in *Tyrone*, Some in the County of *Donnagall*, a River near *Dundalk*, the *Shure* running by *Waterford*, and *Loughlean* in *Kerry*. He mentions one of forty, another of eighty Pounds Value, but the People who find them get perhaps but 50 Shillings, or four Pounds. The Muscles that they are in lie Part opened, putting forth their white Fins out of the Shells like a Tongue out of the Mouth.

THE Pearl being no Natural Part of the Animal, but rather a Disease like the Stone, is found

in the Parts farthest from the Head or Mouth, which is at the opening of the Shells, as is the Case in all Snails. In the *Irish* Muscles they find but one Pearl, but in other Places the same Fish hath many in several Parts of their Bodies, some so large as to hinder the Shells from closing whereby the Fish is killed.

MR. *Chambers*, (some of whose Observations have mingled with Sir *Robert Reddings*) in his Dictionary under the Word Pearl Fishery, takes Notice that there are not only Pearl-Fisheries in *India*, *Arabia-Fælix*, and *Ceylon*, and *Japan*, but in *America*, *Tartary*, *Muscovy*; and in *Europe* in *Bavaria* and upon the Coasts of *Scotland*; and Pearls being found in the Rivers of *Ireland*, might invite the Inhabitants to examine the Coasts of it also; but as yet I believe small Pains hath been taken in their Search.

THE same Mr. *Chambers* under the Word Fishery is very large and particular about both the *Whale*, *Herring*, *Salmon*, *Cod*, *Sturgeon*, and *Pilchard Fisheries*. He saith, the *Dutch* employ a Thousand Fly-Boats in the Herring-Fishery, He saith the *Irish* Herring are counted next to the *Dutch*, and he describes the Manner of Curing both Sorts of Herring, which is so plain that it hardly seems possible to miss it. As fast as they are caught, they are gutted, but the Row and Melt are left in them. They are washed in fresh Water, and put twelve or fifteen Hours into
Brine

Brine made of fresh Water and Sea-Salt, so strong as to make a Fish Swim. After that they are well drained and put up into Barrels covered with Salt at Top and Bottom and close prest and stopt from Air.

THOSE that are designed for *Red Herring* are kept longer in the same Sort of Brine, (to wit, four and Twenty Hours, then are strung by the Head on little wooden Spits, and ten or twelve Thousand at a Time are dried in little close Rooms or Chimneys, with a Fire of Brush-Wood which is only suffered to smother, but not blaze or flame. A Bushel of Salt he saith should be used to every Barrel of Herring.

MR. *Willoughby* in his History of Fishes. At his Book, and 1st Chapter, under the Name *Asellus* takes Notice after *Schonfeldius*, how the Bounty and Wisdom of Providence had given the Northern Nations Plenty of Fish to make them Amends for the small Produce of Corn and Fruit that those cold Airs brought forth for their Inhabitants. After letting us know that under the Name *Asellus* or *Cod fish* was comprehended what was called Keeling, Green-fish, North-Sea-Cod, Haberdene, Island-Fish, Stock-Fish, and Poor John, and sometimes Haddock, he adds, that through *Denmark*, *Norway*, *Sweden*, *Muscovy* and all other the Northern Isles, the People did not only eat that Fish salted for Bread, and fresh

for Dainties; but made large Profit by supplying all the Southern Nations of *Europe* with the same; and as we have no restraining Laws that hinder us from doing the same, We have no Excuse for our Omission, but the unsettled Times and frequent Convulsions that have hindered us from improving even the Land at home.

I know not, Sir, whether you will find Time to read this long Letter, and yet I will add to it, That all Princes who border upon the Sea and have Fleets to command it, reckon large Coasts of it to be Part of their Dominions; and as they are at the Charge of keeping Light-Houses, building and keeping open Havens, and seeing Justice done upon it, so they find Noble Advantages that make them ample Amends. One of the Authors that I have read, saith, *Portugal* had better want its *East-India* Trade than that of its *Pilchards*.

THE *Athenians* found such Riches by their Trade and Commerce, That in their way of speaking, they said *Neptune*, or the God of the Sea, went halves with the Goddess of Learning, in building the Walls of their City.

THE *Venetians* in their way of Popular Instruction have their *Doge* every *Ascension Day*, marry the *Adriatic* Sea, with a Ring which they keep by them, to be used in the Solemnity of every next Marriage.

IT

It may teach all Islands to look upon the Sea
 as their Mistress, and tho' she be a Coy Dame
 and peevish enough sometimes, and must be hu-
 moured, she is worth their Courtship. She hath
 Pearls and Amber, as well as Whales and Mac-
 cril, and now we begin to find the Want of it
 it is to be hoped we shall no longer consider it
 only as a Road to be passed over without other
 Gain to be made of it.

I am, SIR,

Your very humble,

And obedient Servant,

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